

**Pricing of Adult Meals in the National School Lunch  
and School Breakfast Programs**

**Purpose:**

This instruction sets forth the policy on pricing of meals served to adults under the National School Lunch, Food Distribution Program, and School Breakfast Program.

**Scope:**

Sponsors participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

**Description:**

Under the authorizing legislation and regulations, meals served to adults are not eligible for Federal cash reimbursement and do not earn donated food assistance for the school food authority. School food authorities must ensure to the extent practicable, that the Federal reimbursements, children's payments, and other non-designated non-for-profit food service revenues do not subsidize program meals served to adults. While FNS Instruction 770-1 allows donated foods to be used for preparing food items served in adult meals, the current per-meal value of entitlement and/or bonus donated foods must be taken into consideration in establishing the price charged to adults for meals.

Breakfasts and lunches served to teachers, administrators, custodians, and other adults must be priced so that the adult payment in combination with any per-lunch revenues from other sources designated specifically for the support of adult meals (such as State or local fringe benefit or payroll funds, or funding from voluntary agencies) is sufficient to cover the overall cost of the lunch, including the value of any USDA entitlement and bonus donated foods used to prepare the meal. If revenue from other sources are not available, the minimum adult payment should reflect the price charged to students paying the school's designated full price, plus the current value of Federal cash and donated food assistance (entitlement and bonus) for full price meals. In non-pricing programs, the adult charge should be at least the amount of reimbursement received for a free lunch, plus the per-meal value of both entitlement and bonus donated foods, or for breakfasts, the rate established for free meals, plus the value of bonus commodities.

Meals served to adults who are directly involved in the operation and administration of the school nutrition programs may, at the discretion of the school food authority, be furnished at no charge. As such, their cost may be fully attributed to and supported by the non-for-profit food service operation.

Meals served to these adults may not be claimed for reimbursement or counted towards the donated foods entitlement. The determination of individuals, positions involved, and the degree to

which their services are attributed to the non-for-profit food service program operations is left to State and local officials.

**SOURCE:** FNS INSTRUCTION 782-5, REV. 1, DATED JUNE 6, 1988, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE.